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C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 426

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

SUBJECT: GREATER SOLIDARITY FORCE ATTITUDE TOWARD THIEU-KY TICKET

1. ACCORDING TO NGUYEN GAI HIEN, CHAIRMAN OF CATHOLIC GREATER SOLIDARITY FORCE (GSF), GSF CENTRAL COMMITTEE HAS NOT YET MET TO DECIDE WHICH SLATE PARTY WILL NOW SUPPORT IN VIEW OF NEW THIEU-KY ALIGNMENT. GSF CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS, WITH ONE EXCEPTION, HAD EARLIER VOTED TO SUPPORT

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KY (SEE SAIGON 27106). HIEN SAID THAT HE WAS NOT SURE THAT THIEU-KY SLATE WOULD WIN, AND HE WAS ALSO NOT SURE WHAT ROLE GENERAL LOAN WILL NOW PLAY IN ELECTION CAMPAIGN.

2. GSF IS RUNNING ONE TICKET (NUMBER 4) IN SENATORIAL CONTEST WHICH IS USING GSF NAME AND IS HEADED BY HIEN. ONLY OTHER WELL-KNOWN PERSONALITY ON LIST IS BUI VAN GIAI, DEPUTY FROM DANANG. LIST INCLUDES THREE NON-CATHOLICS AND THREE SOUTHERNERS. ACCORDING TO HIEN, GSF HAD HOPED TO SPREAD ITS SENATORIAL CANDIDATES AROUND IN SEVERAL LISTS BUT IN END FOUND IT EASIER TO RUN ITS OWN LIST. HE BELIEVES THAT GSF LIST WILL OBTAIN ONE OF HIGHEST VOTING PERCENTAGES BECAUSE IT IS ONLY "CATHOLIC" LIST AND PRIESTS WILL PROBABLY INSTRUCT THEIR FLOCKS THAT NO MATTER WHO ELSE THEY CAST BALLOTS FOR, THEY SHOULD AT LEAST INCLUDE THE ONE "CATHOLIC" LIST AS WELL. HIEN ALSO SAID THAT THERE WOULD BE SOME COOPERATION DURING THE CAMPAIGN BETWEEN HIS SLATE AND THAT OF CVT HEADED BY CVT SECRETARY-GENERAL TRAN NGUYEN. (HIEN IS ALSO AN OFFICIAL IN ONE SMALL UNION.)

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/IMR
REVIEWED BY Joan Izaberg DATE 10/5/82
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3. GSF HELD ITS THIRD ANNUAL NATIONAL CONGRESS JUNE 28-29 IN THU DUC NEAR SAIGON. ACCORDING TO HIEN, PRTY'S CENTRAL COMMITTEE HAD ORIGINALLY PLANNED TO RALLY SUPPORT OF ENTIRE ORGANIZATION BEHIND KY. HIEN SAID THAT SURVEY OF DELEGATES INDICATED PREFERENCE OF OVER 60 PERCENT FOR KY WHILE MOST OF OTHERS WERE AS YET REPORTEDLY UNDECIDED. CONGRESS WAS ATTENDED BY OVER 200 DELEGATES FROM 43 OUT OF 44 PROVINCES, INCLUDING ALL 12 PROVINCES IN IV CORPS, AND FIVE AUTONOMOUS CITIES. HIEN SAID THAT 1966 CONGRESS WAS ATTENDED BY DELEGATES FROM OVER 20 PRVINCES, INCLUDING ONLY ONE FROM IV CORPS. HE SAID THAT GSF MEMBERSHIP IS NOT ESPECIALLY LARGE IN DELTA WHERE THERE ARE NOT MANY NORTHERN CATHOLICS, BUT ORGANIZATION IS TAKING SOME ROOT AMONG SOUTHERNER CATHOLICS SINCE LATTER HAVE NO EFFECTIVE POLITICAL ORGANIZATION OF THEIR OWN.

4. CENTRAL COMMITTEE WAS, WITH ONE EXCEPTION, RE-ELECTED BY CONGRESS TO SERVE ANOTHER YEAR. COMMITTEE

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INCLUDES ONE NON-CATHOLIC AND SEVERAL SOUTHERNERS. HIEN SAID THAT ONE OF BASIC AIMS OF THIS CONGRESS WAS TO EDUCATE THE DELEGATES IN EVOLVING POLITICAL STRUCTURE OF VIET NAM - AND OF COURSE POTENTIAL ROLE OF GSF, INCLUDING INSTRUCTION ON MEANS TO ENLARGE AND IMPROVE ORGANIZATION.

5. COMMENT: HIEN'S WAIT-AND-SEE ATTITUDE REGARDING PRESIDENTIAL RACE PROBABLY REFLECTS HIS PREVIOUSLY INDICATED DESIRE TO RUN WITH THE WINNER. HE APPARENTLY BELIEVES THAT NOT ALL THOSE WHO WERE READY TO SUPPORT KY WILL NOT SUPPORT THIEU-KY COMBINATION TICKET.

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